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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food And Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE DOCKET NUMBERS: 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0 197

Dear FDA:

I am **writing** to express my concern over the extremely cruel farming practice of forced molting, where hens are starved for up to 14 days. This is done to millions of hens to manipulate egg production. Forced molting is so stressful it destroys the hens' immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella poison. The US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) stated: "**FSIS** recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding to Salmonella enteritis (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices. "

The FDA must do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. You have the jurisdiction to ban unsafe **farm** practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health. I'm writing to urge you to ban the forced molting of egg laying hens because it's a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of the eggs. Please protect the public and help make the lives of millions of animals a little less hellish by banning forced molting.

Thank you for your time and attention to this public health and safety issue.

Sincerely,



Ellen Emerson

97P-0197

C703

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C702

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C703  
96P-0418/C702